

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
Edward Garvey
LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Blackduck Telephone Company's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Koochiching County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: September 5, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P505/ES-99-1744**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911
SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On April 13, 1982, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Koochiching County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On November 20, 1984, the Commission approved the actual costs GTE Telephone Company (formerly known as Continental and Contel) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Koochiching County.

On January 15, 1985, the Commission approved the actual costs U S West Communications (formerly known as Northwestern Bell) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Koochiching County.

On May 26, 1987, the Commission approved the actual costs Arvig Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Service in Koochiching County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Paul Bunyan Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Koochiching County.

On December 30, 1998, the Commission approved the costs Independent Emergency Services, Limited Liability Company incurred for placing a portion of Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Location Identification (ALI) service in Koochiching County.

On February 24, 1999, Hutchinson Telephone Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of their portion of ALI service in the Koochiching County 911 system.

On March 23, 1999, the Commission approved the costs Minnesota Independent Interexchange Corporation incurred for the provision of ANI and ALI support in the 911 Emergency Services system in Koochiching County.

On September 21, 1999, the Commission approved actual costs Hutchinson Telephone Company incurred for providing a portion of ALI service to the 911 Emergency Services system in Koochiching County.

CURRENT FILING

On May 26, 1987, Arvig Telephone Company certified actual costs for installing 911 Emergency Services in Koochiching County. This certification included trunk and interexchange circuits for Emergency 911 Service in the Ash River Exchange located in Koochiching County.

On April 13, 1999, Blackduck Telephone Company (the Company) purchased the Ash River Exchange from Arvig Telephone Company (TDS Telecom).

On April 13, 1999, the Company certified the actual costs that they have incurred for the provision of 911 Emergency Services by the purchase of the Exchange.

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual 911 system costs as they continue to occur at Ash River Exchange. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

Blackduck Telephone Company has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A, reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in Koochiching County.

All charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariffs.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Koochicking County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

Policy References:

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1500 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Central Office Modification Costs

ORDER

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I _____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the ____ day of _____, 2000 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Koochicking County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P505/ES-99-1744.**

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

MR BILL SCHNELLMAN
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Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 2000.

Notary Public